

美国原版经典语文课本



THE ECLECTIC READERS

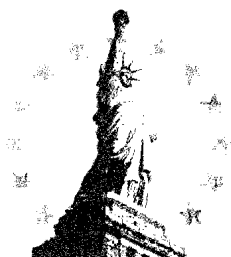
美国语文读本

5

WILLIAM H. MCGUFFEY



上海三联书店



THE ECLECTIC READERS

美国语文读本

5

WILLIAM H. MCGUFFEY



上海三联书店

图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

美国语文读本(第5册) / (美) 麦加菲(McGuffey, W. H.)编.
—上海:上海三联书店, 2011.1

ISBN 978-7-5426-3411-5

I. ①美… II. ①麦… III. ①英语-阅读教学-中小学-美国-
-课外读物 IV. ①G634.413

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2010) 第 239797 号

美国语文读本 (第5册)

编 者/ (美) 威廉·H·麦加菲

责任编辑/ 黄 韬

装帧设计/ 子木工作室

监 制/ 研 发

出版发行/ 上海三联书店

(200031)中国上海市乌鲁木齐南路396弄10号

<http://www.sanlian.com>

E-mail: shsanlian@yahoo.com.cn

印 刷/ 北京领先印刷有限公司

版 次/ 2011年1月第1版

印 次/ 2011年1月第1次印刷

开 本/ 640×940毫米 1/16

字 数/ 280千字

印 张/ 19

ISBN 978-7-5426-3411-5/G·1060

定价: 25.00 元



呈现于读者面前的这套《美国语文读本》，亦名《麦加菲读本》，其编者威廉·H·麦加菲曾先后任美国迈阿密大学语言学教授和俄亥俄大学校长。考虑到“麦加菲”的英文名称在美国已是注册商标，加之它是一套影响深远而广泛的语文课本，我们在中国首次原文出版这套著名教材时，便将书名定为《美国语文读本》。这套书既有教材功能，亦可当作提高英语水平的有效读物。

《美国语文读本》从19世纪中期至20世纪中叶，一直被广泛用作美国学校的语文教材，据称有10000多所美国学校用它当作教材。美国著名汽车制造商亨利·福特称赞这套书是他儿童时代最有兴趣的读物，后来他自费大量印刷这套书，分发给很多学校。到了21世纪，西方一些私立学校和家庭学校仍用它作为教材，足见这套书的价值与影响力。据估计，这套书从问世至1960年，至少发行了1.22亿册；1961年后，在西方每年销量仍达30000册以上。应该说，没有哪一套个人主编的教材能超过此发行量了！

这套读本的英文原版共分七级，包括启蒙读本和第1-6级。考虑到启蒙读本与第一级篇幅都较少，难易程度也很接近，于是我们将之合并为第1册，其余2-6级与英文原版相同。这样国内出版的这套读本共包括6册。第1册从字母表开始，主要侧重于字母的发音与书写、基本单词与常用句型，同时强调英文书写，课文后面附

有不少书法练习，让孩子们不仅将英语说得像外国人，而且写得也跟外国人一样，这也许是国内英语教学所缺少的一个环节。从第2册开始，均是比较正式的课文，每一课包括词汇和课文，对一些难词有英文解释，让学生学会通过简单英文理解生词，养成用英语理解和思维的习惯。第4册还附有课后思考练习，这些练习可以帮助学生更好理解文章，引发孩子们的思考。第5册和第6册的课文前增加了作者简介与相关背景知识，内容丰富而有一定深度。

从所选课文的英文难易程度来看，大致而言，这套读本的第1-3册跟国内小学毕业程度相近，那么第4级以上则适用于中学生阅读使用。从文体方面，除了常用文体外，这套读本对诗歌、戏剧、论说文等文体也很重视，书中选取了不少名家的名作名篇。这对国内孩子们真正感受英语这一西方语言的魄力是大有帮助的。

人类文化的瑰宝不仅源远流长，而且具有很大共通性，在全社会不断呼吁教育改革的今天，我们将这套优秀的美国读本引进到国内，应该具有一定借鉴意义。它有益于中国孩子在学习英语的同时，了解西方的文学与文化历史，通过英语这门语言工具，开阔自己的视野，打开通往世界的心灵之窗。同时，这套书的字里行间灌输了很多做人的道理和准则，让孩子们在学习英语的同时学会做人，这正是我们出版此套书的内心所愿！

作为此书的出版者，我们最后恳请读者原谅并给予帮助的是，由于此套书出版过程中扫描和编排校对的工作量较大，或许会出现一些错误与不当之处，恳请读者谅解并指正，并帮助我们更加完善此套读本。我们的联系方式为 meiguoyuwen@126.com，期待与您交流！

出版者



LESSON 1	THE GOOD READER	1
LESSON 2	THE BLUEBELL.....	5
LESSON 3	THE GENTLE HAND.....	7
LESSON 4	THE GRANDFATHER	11
LESSON 5	A BOY ON A FARM	13
LESSON 6	THE SINGING LESSON	15
LESSON 7	DO NOT MEDDLE.....	17
LESSON 8	WORK	21
LESSON 9	THE MANIAC.....	23
LESSON 10	ROBIN REDBREAST.....	25
LESSON 11	THE FISH I DIDN'T CATCH.....	27
LESSON 12	IT SNOWS	30
LESSON 13	RESPECT FOR THE SABBATH REWARDED	32
LESSON 14	THE SANDS O' DEE	34
LESSON 15	SELECT PARAGRAPHS	36
LESSON 16	THE CORN SONG	38
LESSON 17	THE VENOMOUS WORM	41
LESSON 18	THE FESTAL BOARD	43
LESSON 19	HOW TO TELL BAD NEWS	46
LESSON 20	THE BATTLE OF BLENHEIM	47
LESSON 21	"I PITY THEM"	50
LESSON 22	AN ELEGY ON MADAM BLAIZE	52
LESSON 23	KING CHARLES II AND WILLIAM PENN.....	54

LESSON 24	WHAT I LIVE FOR.....	57
LESSON 25	THE RIGHTEOUS NEVER FORSAKEN	59
LESSON 26	ABOU BEN ADHEM	62
LESSON 27	LUCY FORESTER	63
LESSON 28	THE REAPER AND THE FLOWERS	67
LESSON 29	THE TOWN PUMP.....	69
LESSON 30	GOOD NIGHT	73
LESSON 31	AN OLD-FASHIONED GIRL.....	75
LESSON 32	MY MOTHER'S HANDS	78
LESSON 33	THE DISCONTENTED PENDULUM	79
LESSON 34	THE DEATH OF THE FLOWERS	81
LESSON 35	THE THUNDERSTORM	84
LESSON 36	APRIL DAY	86
LESSON 37	THE TEA ROSE	88
LESSON 38	THE CATARACT OF LODORE.....	92
LESSON 39	THE BOBOLINK	95
LESSON 40	ROBERT OF LINCOLN	98
LESSON 41	REBELLION IN MASSACHUSETTS STATE PRISON ...	101
LESSON 42	FAITHLESS NELLY GRAY	105
LESSON 43	THE GENEROUS RUSSIAN PEASANT	108
LESSON 44	FORTY YEARS AGO	110
LESSON 45	MRS. CAUDLE'S LECTURE	113
LESSON 46	THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH	116
LESSON 47	THE RELIEF OF LUCKNOW	118
LESSON 48	THE SNOWSTORM	120
LESSON 49	BEHIND TIME	122
LESSON 50	THE OLD SAMPLER.....	124
LESSON 51	THE GOODNESS OF GOD	128
LESSON 52	MY MOTHER.....	130
LESSON 53	THE HOUR OF PRAYER	131
LESSON 54	THE WILL	132
LESSON 55	THE NOSE AND THE EYES	135
LESSON 56	AN ICEBERG	137
LESSON 57	ABOUT QUAIL	139
LESSON 58	THE BLUE AND THE GRAY	142

LESSON 59 THE MACHINIST'S RETURN	144
LESSON 60 MAKE WAY FOR LIBERTY	147
LESSON 61 THE ENGLISH SKYLARK	150
LESSON 62 HOW SLEEP THE BRAVE.....	152
LESSON 63 THE RAINBOW	153
LESSON 64 SUPPOSED SPEECH OF JOHN ADAMS.....	154
LESSON 65 THE RISING	157
LESSON 66 CONTROL YOUR TEMPER	161
LESSON 67 WILLIAM TELL.....	163
LESSON 68 WILLIAM TELL (CONCLUDED).....	171
LESSON 69 THE CRAZY ENGINEER	175
LESSON 70 THE HERITAGE.....	180
LESSON 71 NO EXCELLENCE WITHOUT LABOR	183
LESSON 72 THE OLD HOUSE CLOCK	185
LESSON 73 THE EXAMINATION.....	187
LESSON 74 THE ISLE OF LONG AGO.....	191
LESSON 75 THE BOSTON MASSACRE	193
LESSON 76 DEATH OF THE BEAUTIFUL	196
LESSON 77 SNOW FALLING	197
LESSON 78 SQUEERS'S METHOD	198
LESSON 79 THE GIFT OF EMPTY HANDS.....	202
LESSON 80 CAPTURING THE WILD HORSE	204
LESSON 81 SOWING AND REAPING	207
LESSON 82 TAKING COMFORT	209
LESSON 83 CALLING THE ROLL	211
LESSON 84 TURTLE SOUP	213
LESSON 85 THE BEST KIND OF REVENGE	216
LESSON 86 THE SOLDIER OF THE RHINE	218
LESSON 87 THE WINGED WORSHIPERS	221
LESSON 88 THE PEEVISH WIFE	223
LESSON 89 THE RAINY DAY	226
LESSON 90 BREAK, BREAK, BREAK.....	227
LESSON 91 TRANSPORTATION AND PLANTING OF SEEDS.....	228
LESSON 92 SPRING AGAIN	231
LESSON 93 RELIGION THE ONLY BASIS OF SOCIETY	233

LESSON 94 ROCK ME TO SLEEP	235
LESSON 95 MAN AND THE INFERIOR ANIMALS	237
LESSON 96 THE BLIND MEN AND THE ELEPHANT	239
LESSON 97 A HOME SCENE	241
LESSON 98 THE LIGHT OF OTHER DAYS.....	244
LESSON 99 A CHASE IN THE ENGLISH CHANNEL	246
LESSON 100 BURIAL OF SIR JOHN MOORE.....	249
LESSON 101 LITTLE VICTORIES	251
LESSON 102 THE CHARACTER OF A HAPPY LIFE	255
LESSON 103 THE ART OF DISCOURAGEMENT	257
LESSON 104 THE MARINER'S DREAM.....	260
LESSON 105 THE PASSENGER PIGEON	263
LESSON 106 THE COUNTRY LIFE	266
LESSON 107 THE VIRGINIANS	268
LESSON 108 MINOT'S LEDGE.....	272
LESSON 109 HAMLET	274
LESSON 110 DISSERTATION ON ROAST PIG	278
LESSON 111 A PEN PICTURE	282
LESSON 112 THE GREAT VOICES	285
LESSON 113 A PICTURE OF HUMAN LIFE	286
LESSON 114 A SUMMER LONGING	290
LESSON 115 FATE	292
LESSON 116 THE BIBLE THE BEST OF CLASSICS	293
LESSON 117 MY MOTHER'S BIBLE	295

LESSON 1

THE GOOD READER

1. It is told of Frederick the Great, King of Prussia, that, as he was seated one day in his private room, a written petition¹ was brought to him with the request that it should be immediately read. The King had just returned from hunting, and the glare of the sun, or some other cause, had so dazzled his eyes that he found it difficult to make out a single word of the writing.

2. His private secretary happened to be absent; and the soldier who brought the petition could not read. There was a page, or favorite boy servant, waiting in the hall, and upon him the King called. The page was a son of one of the noblemen of the court, but proved to be a very poor reader.

3. In the first place, he did not articulate² distinctly. He huddled his words together in the utterance, as if they were syllables of one long word, which he must get through with as speedily as possible. His pronunciation was bad, and he did not modulate³ his voice so as to bring out the meaning of what he read. Every sentence was uttered with a dismal monotony⁴ of voice, as if it did not differ in any respect from that which preceded it.

4. "Stop!" said the King, impatiently. "Is it an auctioneer's list of goods to be sold that you are hurrying over? Send your companion to me." Another page who stood at the door now entered, and to him the King gave the petition. The second page began by hemming and clearing his throat in such an affected⁵ manner that the King jokingly asked him whether he had not slept in the public garden, with the gate open, the night before.

5. The second page had a good share of self-conceit, however, and so was not greatly confused by the King's jest. He determined that he would avoid the mistake which his comrade had made. So he commenced reading the petition slowly and with great formality, emphasizing every word, and prolonging the articulation of every syllable. But his manner was so tedious that the King cried out, "Stop! are you reciting a lesson in the elementary sounds? Out of the room! But no: stay! Send me that little girl who is sitting there by the fountain."

1 Petition, a formal request.

2 Articulate, to utter the elementary sounds.

3 Modulate, to vary or inflect.

4 Monotony, lack of variety.

5 Affected, unnatural and silly.



6. The girl thus pointed out by the King was a daughter of one of the laborers employed by the royal gardener; and she had come to help her father weed the flower beds. It chanced that, like many of the poor people in Prussia, she had received a good education. She was somewhat alarmed when she found herself in the King's presence, but took courage when the King told her that he only wanted her to read for him, as his eyes were weak.

7. Now, Ernestine (for this was the name of the little girl) was fond of reading aloud, and often many of the neighbors would assemble at her father's house to hear

her; those who could not read themselves would come to her, also, with their letters from distant friends or children, and she thus formed the habit of reading various sorts of handwriting promptly and well.

8. The King gave her the petition, and she rapidly glanced through the opening lines to get some idea of what it was about. As she read, her eyes began to glisten, and her breast to heave. "What is the matter?" asked the King; "don't you know how to read?" "Oh, yes! sire," she replied, addressing him with the title usually applied to him: "I will now read it, if you please."

9. The two pages wore about to leave the room. "Remain," said the King. The little girl began to read the petition. It was from a poor widow, whose only son had been drafted¹ to serve in the army, although his health was delicate and his pursuits had been such as to unfit him for military life. His father had been killed in battle, and the son had a strong desire to become a portrait painter.

10. The writer told her story in a simple, concise² manner, that carried to the heart a belief of its truth; and Ernestine read it with so much feeling, and with an articulation so just, in tones so pure and distinct, that when she had finished, the King, into whose eyes the tears had started, exclaimed, "Oh! now I understand what it is all about; but I might never have known, certainly I never should have felt, its meaning had I trusted to these young gentlemen, whom I now dismiss from my service for one year, advising them to occupy their time in learning to read."

11. "As for you, my young lady," continued the King, "I know you will ask no better reward for your trouble than the pleasure of carrying to this poor widow my order for her son's immediate discharge³. Let me see whether you can write as well as you can read. Take this pen, and write as I dictate⁴." He then dictated an order, which Ernestine wrote, and he signed. Calling one of his guards, he bade him go with the girl and see that the order was obeyed.

12. How much happiness was Ernestine the means of bestowing through her good elocution, united to the happy circumstance that brought it to the knowledge of the King! First, there were her poor neighbors, to whom she could give instruction and entertainment. Then, there was the poor widow who sent the petition, and who not only regained her son, but received through Ernestine an order for him to paint the King's likeness; so that the poor boy soon rose to great distinction⁵, and had more orders than he could attend to. Words could not express⁶ his gratitude, and that of his mother, to the little girl.

13. And Ernestine had, moreover, the satisfaction of aiding her father to rise in the world, so that he became the King's chief gardener. The King did not forget her, but

1 Drafted, *selected by lot*.

2 Concise, *brief and full of meaning*.

3 Discharge, *release*.

4 Dictate, *to utter so that another may write it down*.

5 Distinction, *honorable and notable position*.

6 Express, *to make known the feelings of*.

had her well educated at his own expense. As for the two pages, she was indirectly the means of doing them good, also; for, ashamed of their bad reading, they commenced studying in earnest, till they overcame the faults that had offended the King. Both finally rose to distinction, one as a lawyer, and the other as a statesman; and they owed their advancement in life chiefly to their good elocution.

NOTES.—Frederick II. of Prussia (b. 1712, d. 1788), or Frederick the Great, as he was called, was one of the greatest of German rulers. He was distinguished for his military exploits, for his wise and just government, and for his literary attainments. He wrote many able works in the French language. Many pleasant anecdotes are told of this king, of which the one given in the lesson is a fair sample.

LESSON 2

THE BLUEBELL

1. There is a story I have heard—
A poet learned it of a bird,
And kept its music every word—
2. A story of a dim ravine,
O'er which the towering tree tops lean,
With one blue rift¹ of sky between;
3. And there, two thousand years ago,
A little flower as white as snow
Swayed² in the silence to and fro.
4. Day after day, with longing eye,
The floweret watched the narrow sky,
And fleecy clouds that floated by.
5. And through the darkness, night by night,
One gleaming star would climb the height³,
And cheer the lonely floweret's sight.
6. Thus, watching the blue heavens afar,
And the rising of its favorite star,
A slow change came—but not to mar;
7. For softly o'er its petals⁴ white
There crept a blueness, like the light
Of skies upon a summer night;

1 Rift, a narrow opening, a cleft.

2 Swayed, swung.

3 Height, an elevated place.

4 Petals, the colored leaves of a flower.

8. And in its chalice¹, I am told,
The bonny² bell was formed to hold
A tiny star that gleamed like gold.
9. Now, little people, sweet and true,
I find a lesson here for you
Writ in the floweret's hell of blue:
10. The patient child whose watchful eye
Strives after all things pure and high,
Shall take their image by and by.

1 Chalice, a cup or bowl.

2 Bonny, beautiful.

LESSON 3

THE GENTLE HAND

Timothy S. Arthur (b. 1809, d. 1885) was born near Newburgh, N.Y., but passed most of his life at Baltimore and Philadelphia. His opportunities for good schooling were quite limited, and he may be considered a self-educated man. He was the author of more than a hundred volumes, principally novels of a domestic and moral tone, and of many shorter tales—magazine articles, etc. “Ten Nights in a Barroom,” and “Three Years in a Mantrap,” are among his best known works.

1. When and where it matters not now to relate—but once upon a time, as I was passing through a thinly peopled district of country, night came down upon me almost unawares. Being on foot, I could not hope to gain the village toward which my steps were directed, until a late hour; and I therefore preferred seeking shelter and a night's lodging at the first humble dwelling that presented itself.

2. Dusky twilight was giving place to deeper shadows, when I found myself in the vicinity¹ of a dwelling, from the small uncurtained windows of which the light shone with a pleasant promise of good cheer and comfort. The house stood within an inclosure, and a short distance from the road along which I was moving with wearied feet.

3. Turning aside, and passing through the ill-hung gate, I approached the dwelling. Slowly the gate swung on its wooden hinges, and the rattle of its latch, in closing, did not disturb the air until I had nearly reached the porch in front of the house, in which a slender girl, who had noticed my entrance, stood awaiting my arrival.

4. A deep, quick bark answered, almost like an echo, the sound of the shutting gate, and, sudden as an apparition, the form of an immense dog loomed in the doorway. At the instant when he was about to spring, a light hand was laid upon his shaggy neck, and a low word spoken.

5. “Go in, Tiger,” said the girl, not in a voice of authority, yet in her gentle tones was the consciousness that she would be obeyed; and, as she spoke, she lightly bore upon the animal with her hand, and he turned away and disappeared within the dwelling.

6. “Who's that?” A rough voice asked the question; and now a heavy-looking man took the dog's place in the door.

¹ Vicinity, *neighborhood*.

7. “How far is it to G—?” I asked, not deeming it best to say, in the beginning, that I sought a resting place for the night.

8. “To G—!” growled the man, but not so harshly as at first. “It’s good six miles from here.”

9. “A long distance; and I’m a stranger and on foot,” said I. “If you can make room for me until morning, I will be very thankful.”

10. I saw the girl’s hand move quickly up his arm, until it rested on his shoulder, and now she leaned to him still closer.

11. “Come in. We’ll try what can be done for you.” There was a change in the man’s voice that made me wonder. I entered a large room, in which blazed a brisk fire. Before the fire sat two stout lads, who turned upon me their heavy eyes, with no very welcome greeting. A middle-aged woman was standing at a table, and two children were amusing themselves with a kitten on the floor.

12. “A stranger, mother,” said the man who had given me so rude a greeting at the door; “and he wants us to let him stay all night.”

13. The woman looked at me doubtingly for a few moments, and then replied coldly, “We don’t keep a public house.”

14. “I’m aware of that, ma’am,” said I; “but night has overtaken me, and it’s a long way yet to G—.”

15. “Too far for a tired man to go on foot,” said the master of the house, kindly, “so it’s no use talking about it, mother; we must give him a bed.”

16. So unobtrusively¹ that I scarce noticed the movement, the girl had drawn to her mother’s side. What she said to her I did not hear, for the brief words were uttered in a low voice; but I noticed, as she spoke, one small, fair hand rested on the woman’s hand.

17. Was there magic in that touch? The woman’s repulsive² aspect changed into one of kindly welcome, and she said, “Yes, it’s a long way to G—. I guess we can find a place for him.”

18. Many times more during that evening, did I observe the magic power of that hand and voice—the one gentle yet potent³ as the other. On the next morning, breakfast being over, I was preparing to take my departure when my host⁴ informed me that if I would wait for half an hour he would give me a ride in his wagon to G—, as business required him to go there. I was very well pleased to accept of the invitation.

19. In due time, the farmer’s wagon was driven into the road before the house, and I was invited to get in. I noticed the horse as a rough-looking Canadian pony, with a certain air of stubborn endurance. As the farmer took his seat by my side, the family came to the door to see us off.

1 Unobtrusively, *not noticeably, modestly.*

2 Repulsive, *repelling, forbidding.*

3 Potent, *powerful, effective.*

4 Host, *one from whom another receives food, lodging, or entertainment.*